Canons of Construction

Volume 36, Number 4 The Law Students' Newspaper Nov 8, 2004

Golden Bearristers are victorious against the Olden Barristers

Building Democracy Within the Framework of Human Rights

Allison Eng (1L)

The leading lady of human rights in Iran, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, visited the law faculty on October 21 before delivering the University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights to the general public in the evening. Among students and faculty, she shared about her legal career, beginning with her time serving as a judge, to her current vocation, which combines maintaining a law practice, lecturing, teaching, writing, and being a peaceful activist for human rights.

Speaking through the assistance of an interpreter, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate described how she began her campaign for human rights through the lens of children's rights, so as to remain under the radar of the Iranian government. "Talking about human rights was like carrying a bomb in your hand on the streets," she said. The Association for Support of Children's Rights in Iran was created to draw the Iranian peoples' attention to the idea of human rights. It continues to flourish today with over 500 volunteers and has established courses on children's rights. Ebadi's efforts to advance human rights, more broadly, have contributed to the opening of the Center for Women's Studies and the Human Rights Information Center at the University of Tehran.

Given that education is valued in Islamic law, Ebadi noted that the percentage of women in universities now exceeds men by a substantial margin. This, Ebadi believes, has aided the human rights movement as women have become more acutely aware of the inequalities in Iran. Thus making women want to eliminate those differences.

Ebadi proceeded to shift away from herself and to comment on the Declaration of Islamic Human Rights. She attacked it as being non-democratic and further accused the Islamic government of using it as a shield to justify its violations of human rights. The Iranian government, in Ebadi's view, has claimed that human rights and democracy are not compatible with Islam. However, Ebadi was quick to counter that notion by urging, "We can be Muslims and democrats at the same time. We can be Muslims and respect human rights at the same time." She also shed light on what she believed to be a major stumbling block of Islamic laws, that is, its varying interpretations. For example, the mandatory requirement on women to wear veils varies among Islamic countries. More flexible countries such as Indonesia allow women to run for presidency, whereas more stringent countries such as Saudi Arabia will not even allow women to drive cars.

During the question and answer period, Ebadi remained steadfast in her convictions as she was confronted with recent headlines concerning the proposed Sharia Arbitration Boards in Ontario and the recent law passed in France, which bans overt religious symbols in public schools, including headscarves. In opposing separate arbitration boards in Ontario, Ebadi shed light on the inequalities that would transpire if all other groups (ie. religious-based) would then be justified to erect its own arbitration board. Ebadi spoke against the legislation passed in France by as contrary

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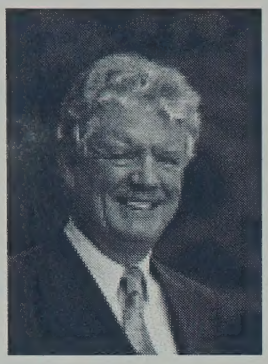
Dean's MESSAGE



David R.Percy

Although the position of Dean provides a stimulating opportunity to represent the Faculty of Law, you can imagine that the Dean's Office is also the place where most complaints come to rest. I thought I would pass on an email that I recently received from our Plasma Screen, even if the screen's view on developments in modern science seems a little literal.

David Percy

Dear Dean,

I would like to remind General Malfeasance that plasma screens have brains, even if in my case it is situated on the 4th floor, a long way from my centre of gravity. In that respect, we are more like Yao Ming than a television monitor, to which we have recently been crudely and unflatteringly compared. Can you imagine how we feel, having words put in our mouths by others every day and then being stared at by hundreds of blank faces?

The ultimate insult came when General Malfeasance pretended to interview me, assumed incorrectly that I was male and then doubted my parentage, criticized my home surroundings, and misrepresented the source of my allowance. When someone even questions the reason for your existence, you know that it has been a bad day at the office. So, dear Dean, I ask you to set the record straight.

Plasma Screens Have Feelings Too!

Actually, to borrow a phrase from my noisy and useless clock friends, who seem to be trying to morph into machine guns and, in any event, belong to the University and not the Faculty, I am ticked when people question my reason for being. They forget that last year, a major source of controversy was the debate over the electronic bulletin board and the blizzard of mass emails that students received. Dozens of students complained that notices of important events were being lost in an overload of electronic information. So I entered this building as a peace-maker, proud to display up-to-date and accurate messages about the events of the day and the week.

I also quite like my home and I don't think that disparaging remarks about where I live are fair. Sure, I would love to have moved up in the world and lorded it over you all above the Library entrance. But unfortunately (and it pains me to reveal this) I have to live in assisted accommodation, which involves connecting me by a tube to my brain. The best doctors available said I had to live in my present humble abode to minimize the expense of connecting my tube to the central nervous system of the Faculty.

I have noticed that most students spend at least parts of the day on the first floor. I have been submitting daily reports to the Dean on the amount of time that certain individuals spend playing video games. I know law students are creatures of habit, but I am sure that as they get used to me, they will spare a moment for a friendly glance as they stagger by.

Oh, about my allowance. I don't want you to think that I am up here as a parasite, feeding on your differential fees. Although I am a foundling, I was paid for out of an equipment budget which (ssh!) would have been returned to the University if it had not been spent by the end of the year. I last saw my parents in a factory in Korea, from which I was cruelly abducted. But now I have high hopes of being adopted by a friendly law firm so that I won't be a burden any more.

You know, I should be friends with law students. I have been talking to my buddies, the Library computers, about genetic mapping. They tell me that these days, gorillas are running around boasting that they are 98.5% human. They sit in their cages in the zoo now saying, "Am I my keeper's brother?" Well, I am full of plasma. Have you ever checked out what your blood is made of?

So, brothers and sisters, look up and give me a smile.

Here's to a good term and no missed events!

Ms. P. Screen (L1)

Want to get involved with Canons?
Come out to our next meeting:

Wed, Nov 10, 2004
Rm 102 (in the Locker room)
Time: noon

Canons of Construction is the official Law Student Newspaper of the University of Alberta Law Faculty. *Canons'* principal objectives are to provide equitable and judicious coverage of issues and events germane to Law Students at the University of Alberta and to provide an open forum for the free exchange and expression of thought, opinions and ideas.

All law students and interested parties in the legal community are encouraged to contribute submissions, provided that contributions are accompanied by name, student number and telephone number. No articles are published anonymously. *Canons* reserves the right to edit submissions for content, length, and legality. *Canons* will not publish materials deemed by the board to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous. Ideas and opinions expressed in *Canons* do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Canons* board.

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Shirin Ebadi:

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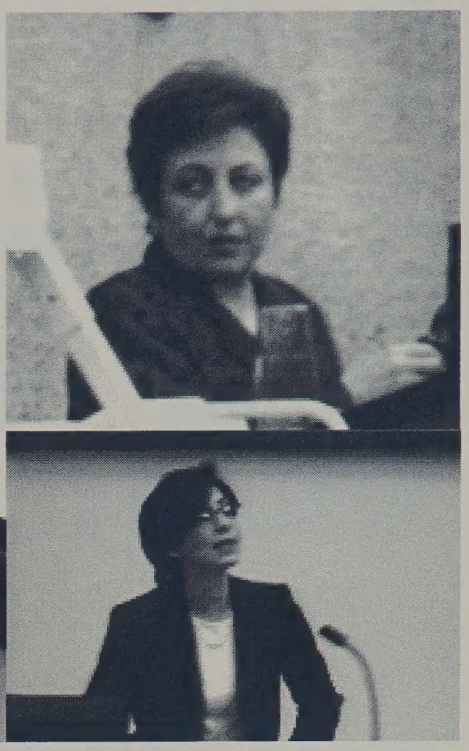
to basic human rights.

When asked, "What can *we* do?" Ebadi reaffirmed that the establishment of human rights and democracy is the responsibility of the people, but then spoke of the support needed from the international community. She used journalists as an example, and encouraged them to describe what they see "not any blacker than it is, and not any whiter than it is."

As a person who has spent much of her life in a world absent of liberal democracy, Shirin Ebadi drew attention to the privilege of living in a liberal democracy that many of us take for granted. Her deep convictions prompted those present to consider what democracy means within a framework of human rights, and to reflect on the struggle that has precluded its establishment in other parts of the world.

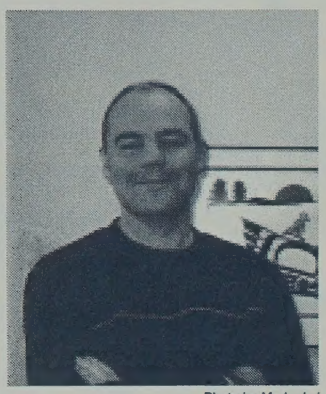
Dr. Shirin Ebadi & Vista Pourbahrami (1L)



Above: Interpreter

Faculty Profile

Examining Private Law Doctrines Through the Lens of History



PROFESSOR **BROWN**

Photo by My-Le Lai

My-Le Lai (3L)

Welcome to Alberta, Professor Russell Brown! Prior to teaching you had an extensive background in civil litigation. What was your most memorable case?

In 1997, I was retained to defend a fire department which had responded to a major fire aboard a large Russian factory trawler in dry-dock near Victoria. It was memorable for three reasons. First, the plaintiffs' losses were alleged to be around $80 million US, which fact alone made the case memorable. I can attest that the fear of losing such a case keeps one awake at nights. Secondly, it was memorable because of the personalities I encountered in the course of litigating that case (which took five years). Most of the experts had been U.S. or Royal, that is, British Navy personnel at one time or other, and most of the ship's company were from the Russian Far East. Thirdly, the case had all kinds of important legal issues, both in tort law and maritime law. In fact, it was this case that made me so interested in the issues surrounding the recovery of pure economic loss in the law of tort. All the parties to the case were grappling with two inconsistent pronouncements issued by the Supreme Court of Canada in five years on this issue, and so it was evident to us that the courts were struggling with these issues as well. As a result, I ended up researching and writing a great deal on pure economic loss.

Did your interest in civil litigation stem from classes you had taken or was it a result of the opportunities that came up where you worked?

Actually, I had planned to work as a solicitor after my call to the bar. During my summer articles (after second year), however, I realized that I enjoyed debating legal issues with my colleagues, and for that reason I began to focus more on litigation.

Your research interest is in the area of private law, but you are also interested in civil litigation as a means of dispute resolution. With the increased interest and popularity in alternative forms of dispute resolution, how does civil litigation fit in?

Well, obviously it is the final resort. While alternative dispute resolution is appropriately a significant part of any good litigator's practice and skill set, I found that litigants' concerns about the expense and stress of litigation usually provided a good incentive to settle. So litigation has its own function in the context of alternative dispute resolution. And, of course, this is independent of litigation's most important function, which is the means by which issues of civil justice are adjudicated among members of society. A more pragmatic interest of mine is how we can preserve and enhance civil justice through civil litigation reform. Take for example civil juries. Professor Yahya and I are currently collaborating on an article on civil juries, whose role has been neglected, and in some parts of the country is viewed with outright suspicion or hostility. If law students, law teachers and lawyers don't start thinking of ways in which we can modernize and preserve civil juries, we may actually lose the important right to have civil claims tried by our peers.

Your doctoral research focuses on "judicial activism" in negligence law. Can you expand on that?

Yikes. It's hard to summarize that project quickly, but I'll try. I see negligence law in Canada as having taken dramatic turns in the past 10 to 15 years, especially in areas relating to pure economic loss and vicarious liability. Tort law damages have been awarded in cases that had traditionally been closed to tort law. For example, in *Winnipeg Condo*, the Supreme Court of Canada imposed a duty of care upon builders in performing their contractual obligations. This duty, we were told, is also owed to non-contracting parties in 'dangerous' circumstances. Or, in *CNR v. Norske*, the Court allowed the plaintiff to advance a claim in respect of physical damage to property in which it had no property rights. I think that the reason we'd not previously extended negligence law in these ways was out of a well-founded fear of distorting other areas of law, especially contract and property law. This expansion of liability was first conceptualized as "judicial activism" by Professor Klar. But this is paradoxical, because the common law specifically contemplates that judges will actually make that law: how can a common law judge be anything other than "activist"? That, in a nutshell, is the paradox which I am attempting to resolve.

You have written in the past about examining private law doctrine from a historical perspective. What are the benefits/drawbacks of using such a framework for analysis?

There are some areas of private law such as the doctrine of tenures or the doctrine of estates in property law, for example, where you cannot avoid engaging in an historical analysis in order to understand their modern applications. But even outside those limited areas, sometimes it is worth engaging in an historical analysis of other legal rules or practices. In this way, we can learn whether we can confidently implement changes without upsetting the reason for the rule or practice in the first place. Sometimes the original reason will no longer apply and so I think every province should follow Manitoba's lead and discard the rule against perpetuities. On the other hand, before a court decides to jettison something like the charitable purpose trust (as some people argue the Ontario Court of Appeal has done in the *Christian Brothers* case), I think it is worthwhile thinking about why we had charitable purpose trusts in the first place and the purposes they served.

You teach Property Law and Civil Procedure. What do you hope to accomplish in your classes?

They are quite different courses. Civil Procedure is largely, although not entirely, a practice-oriented course for students who are just about to embark on their careers. Property, on the other hand, is more of a survey course designed to immerse students new to law in a range of diverse topics that Anglo-American law schools have somewhat arbitrarily grouped together as 'property law' subjects. Because of those diverse contents, I think it is probably

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In the SPOTLIGHT

Growing Pains of the New CPLED Program

Walter Krawec (3L)

An articling student in Edmonton complains of inconsistent grading and a soaring failure rate. Another student articling in Manitoba laments the absence of meaningful feedback and asks, "How are they marking students as competent or incompetent when the instructors are incompetent themselves?"

Those words are a sample of the student criticism leveled at the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Development (CPLED) program, the new professional licencing scheme that came into effect this year. CPLED is a significant change from the Alberta bar admission course, and the difficulties in rolling out the new program have been causing concern among articling students and those who will be articling in the near future.

What distinguishes CPLED from its predecessor is that the new program stresses professional competence in several areas, including legal research, interviewing, and office management. Modeled on the system used by accounting students in the CA School of Business (CASB) program, CPLED departs from the traditional bar admissions course emphasis on substantive areas of law learned in a classroom setting. The program is now structured around eight on-line modules, each one completed individually by students. The modules include some class time with an instructor, assignments and a competency evaluation at the end, graded on a pass/fail basis.

According to Joan Copp, Deputy Director of the CPLED program in Alberta, the Law Society of Alberta is aware of the concerns raised by articling students. "Students in this session are in the bumpiest one," said Copp. "CASB had a lot of issues during their first year, too."

Copp said that Law Society benchers were intrigued by the CASB articling model, and remain convinced that the CPLED program is a significant improvement over the bar admission course. CPLED was designed to address areas where the bar admissions course was seen to be lacking, such as a perceived lack of feedback and reliance on 100% final examinations. In addition, the program reflects changes in the day-to-day practices of young lawyers. For example, Copp noted that young lawyers were spending more time on real estate transactions and less time on wills, and that the curriculum has been designed to reflect that.

So far, CPLED has been adopted by the law societies of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with British Columbia pulling out after having been involved at the planning stage. Copp said that the law societies are satisfied with the CPLED model and added that next year, "the overall structure will be the same. Students like the overall direction but there are some things that we need to fine tune."

According to Copp, priorities for the CPLED program include improved communication between instructors and students, technical improvements to the website that some students have had difficulty navigating, and hiring more staff.

"It's been bumpy," Copp said. "We expected that, but we're learning from it."

CLUBS UPDATE

U of A International Law Society Attends Ottawa Conference

Alex Yiu (2L)

Seven members of the U of A International Law Society, accompanied by Professors Linda Reif and Joanna Harrington, recently attended the annual Canadian Council on International Law Conference from October 14-16 in Ottawa.

Over the course of two and a half days, students participated in a number of unique seminars and activities, including a forum comprised of an esteemed panel of international law practitioners and public servants in the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Departments, a career fair comprised of representatives from numerous NGOs, law schools, public and private sector organizations, as well as a visit to the Supreme Court of Canada.

L – R: Kristine Johns, Nicole Bacsalmasi, Erin Baker, Kristina Koller, Joanna Harrington, Lisa Caines, Alex Yiu, Kieran Ryan, Linda Reif

Professor Harrington, a new addition to the Faculty of Law, is a strong supporter of the CCIL conference, and has been a presenter at the conference in the past. In fact, Professor Harrington was elected to the Council's Board of Governors at this year's conference. Professor Harrington finds that "[a]ttending the CCIL conference is a great opportunity to meet lawyers from Canada who are working on international issues. It's a networking opportunity as well as a learning opportunity, especially given the wide range of issues affected by international law, from trade and investment to human rights and criminal law. There is a wide range of choice among the panels and speakers, with the only disadvantage being that you just can't attend everything."

Professor Harrington also notes that the social aspect of the conference is one which is unique to the CCIL conference in that "cocktails with the diplomats at Foreign Affairs is also fun, as is the recent initiative to meet with lawyers at the Department of Justice who are doing more and more international work."

The trip was a great success and it is hoped that funding might be raised in future to enable more students to attend the Ottawa conference. For more information on the International Law Society, visit www.ualberta.ca/~uails.

Thank-you LETTER

A Random Act of Kindness

Gillian Findlay (3L)

I had my hesitations moving to Edmonton from Halifax. I was used to the friendly life of a small city and not having to worry about locking my doors if I was only running out for a few minutes. But I found the people and atmosphere so accepting, that soon after moving here, I felt very much at home. That is, until several weeks ago when I returned home from Law Show to find that my apartment had been broken into and most of my personal belongings stolen. Although the least of my worries was the monetary value of these items, being the naive Maritimer I am, I did not have tenant's insurance.

For anyone who this has ever happened to, you can understand my saying that it is one of the most personal violation's you can experience. Being someone who had always dedicated my time to helping those very people that had forced their way into my apartment, taking away my trust and security, I began to question what had happened to our society and what good was left in it. That is, until recently, when I received an email alerting me to pick something up from the fourth floor. Although my hopes were that it was a ransom note for all my missing stuff, to my surprise, it was an envelope full of cash from students who wanted to remain anonymous, hoping that they could help a little in recouping my losses.

Although I have found out recently that there is a small possibility I may have some coverage under my parents insurance, this contribution helped significantly with the costs associated with a resulting sudden relocation and in paying any deductible for insurance purposes if the claim ends up being approved.

I would like to truly thank those students for their extreme kindness and thoughtfulness. Although I would try to give it all back had you not remained anonymous, know that you helped not only restore my belief in the goodness of people but reminded me of how special this experience we call law school is. Although we have together all had our ups and downs, when it comes down to it, our little community is a type of family that I am proud to be a part of; not only do we band together to help out the community but we also help out each other. This act of humanity should bring great assurance in all of our career choices, because if these are the people who will be our colleagues for the rest of our lives, then we have got nothing to worry about.

Canons FODDER

Walter Krawec (3L)

Everyone walking the Law Centre halls knows about Persons' Day, which is marked each year on October 18. It's the anniversary of the 1929 Privy Council decision in *Edwards v. Canada* that declared women were "persons" after all, and are entitled to sit in the Senate. With that breakthrough, the **Famous Five** left an indelible mark on Canadian history. However, you may be surprised to learn that some unfinished business still lurks after all those years. If you're under 30 or own less than $4,000 in property, you still can't get into the Senate. That's no big deal under the current system of appointed Senators. After all, it takes decades of loyal partisan service to earn a ticket into the Red Chamber.

However, thanks to Premier **Ralph Klein**, change may be on the horizon for twenty-something Senatorial wannabes. The upcoming provincial election will include a ballot for Senate nominees, and if you happen to be a precocious sort who doesn't mind stirring the pot, you could try to get your name on the ballot. Who knows, it could set the stage for a monster *Charter* challenge against those archaic rules – and if you're successful, it could be the Famous Five *and you!* But don't dawdle, because nominations close on November 8.

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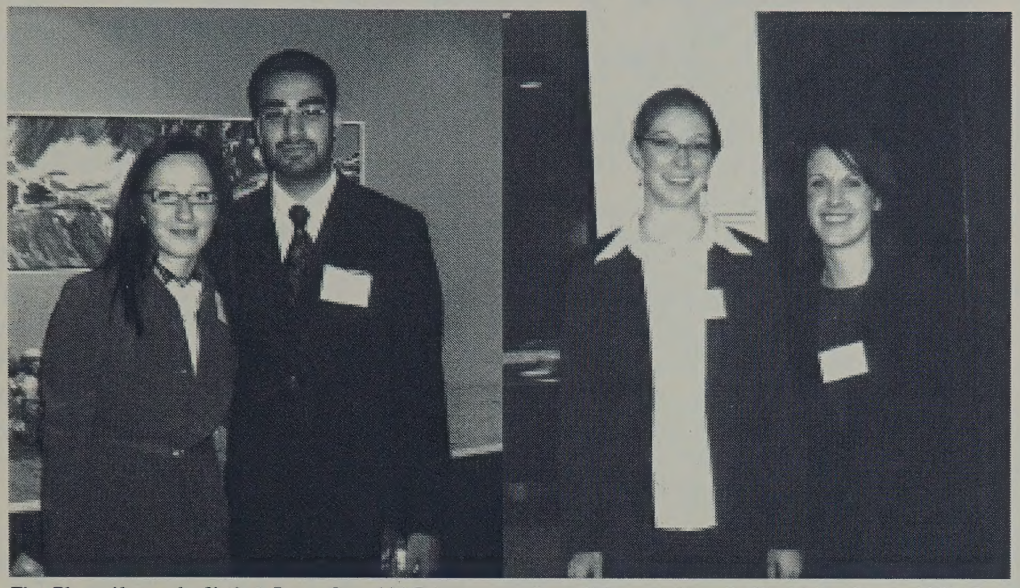
MOOTING

FMC Negotiations Competition

October 20, 2004



First Place: Alexsandra Simic & Imran Qureshi (2Ls)

Second Place: Kathleen Radford & Jennifer Cockbill (2Ls)

Third Place: Gregory Herget & Sean Moring (1Ls)

Students mingle after the first round

Canons Fodder

...Continued from page 6

Young people and Parliament are not a contradiction – since the June election, the House of Commons now has five Members in their twenties, with four more at exactly 30 years old. With the youth vote jumping a whopping 55% in the last federal election (according to *The Globe and Mail*), who knows where this trend might lead? Maybe the words "Minister Lavigne" aren't as preposterous as they seem?

Interview week is over, and for the sake of second-years and their mental health and well-being, let's avoid using any painfully cheesy interview clichés. If you're going to be chatting in the Gavel, steer away from these phrases for the next little while: "work hard, play hard", "the right fit", "exposure to different areas of the law", "collegial atmosphere", and above all, "well-rounded". In fact, it might not be a bad idea to banish them from your vocabulary altogether...

Edmonton Transit System says that the $100.1 million LRT extension is now expected to open in January 2006. Riders are reportedly crossing their fingers and hoping that ETS engineers will turn their sights on the next big goal: figuring out how to make their escalators operate at least three days between "preventative maintenance".

Faculty Profile...

...Continued from page 4

easier to inspire interest in property law issues than it is to inspire interest in civil procedure. But to answer your question, I hope to inspire broad interest in both subjects as well as convey the essentials that need to be conveyed to prepare students for their post-law school careers.

What is your teaching philosophy?

I'm never sure what that term means. The last time I was asked that question was when I was being interviewed for this job. My answer is still the same. In being admitted to this law school, students already demonstrate a capacity for prolonged study and serious reflection on legal issues. As such they are entitled to a high measure of respect. I think that having high expectations of students is one way of showing them respect. Another way is to encourage students to respond to readings and lectures with their observations in class on an issue. Incidentally, I don't think this 'philosophy' is at all unique or that there aren't lots of other ways of looking at these issues, but it works for me.

As a law student, what were your favourite and least favourite classes?

My favorite class was Conflicts. It had nothing to do with the subject matter, and everything to do with the teacher. Terry Wuester, who died a couple of years after I graduated, was a great lecturer, with a homespun rural Kansan accent that made him sound simple, but he was no fool. In fact I think he gold medalled at Yale. But he couldn't pronounce a foreign name to save his life. This is obviously a problem if you're teaching conflicts. So he gave the cases different names such as the "Maltese Marriage Case", the "Portuguese-German Fistfight in New Zealand Case"; that sort of thing. My least favorite classes were Property and Civil Procedure - but I hope none of my students will come to the same conclusion.

What was your most memorable law school experience?

It actually had nothing to do with studying. In my second year, we had a great law school rugby team. It included one student who had actually played for the Canada Under-19s, three of us who had played for British Columbia, and another half-dozen or so who played for local Victoria teams. In our annual game against UBC, we beat them 40-0. The ball was never inside our half, except for kick-offs, and it was never inside our 22 metre line at all. It was incredible.

LSA UPDATE

VP SOCIAL

Marnie Yohemas (2L)

November has arrived and we all know what that means - yes, less sunlight, fewer parties, and *more papers*. September and October were busy months and I'm sure a bit overwhelming for our new first year class. Now that we've all gotten our fill of free pizza it's time to turn our attention to our studies. But alas, just when you thought you could party no more, there is one more party yet to be held by the LSA and that will be our last FABS of the term on November 19. Look for details to come and take the opportunity to let off some paper or memo related stress! Other upcoming events include the Children's Christmas Party and Turkey Luncheon to be held at the end of this month.

The end of September brought first year election madness to our hallways. The results are as follows:

Recruitment Committee: Mike Hrabok and Joanna Cox; **CBA**: Matt Olson and Scott Kurie; **1st Year Articling Committee**: Mike Sharp, Christina Cundict and Jeff Coles; **Law Faculty Council**: Elena Weed and Anna Lund; **Student Appeal Committee**: Kristopher Nielsen; **Library Committee**: Chris Harris and Rose Schlegl, and our **First Year LSA Reps**: John Rauser and Laura Gill. Congratulations to all Winners and Appointees.

First Year Reps John Rauser and Laura Gill were put to work right away and planned a fabulous Faculty Luncheon that saw the LSA executive getting to know the faculty and staff from the fourth floor. Thank you to all those who attended!

The LSA is here to act as your voice, so if you have some comments or concerns please do not hesitate to bring your concerns to the attention of one of the LSA executives and we will do our best to try and get an answer for you. LSA President Baerach Anderson has already spent some time chatting with Dean Percy about some of those concerns. This month he met with Dean Percy regarding student concerns over the availability of childcare services on campus, student group fundraising initiatives, faculty attendance at student events, laptop user concerns in classrooms, building-wide wireless internet access, the condition of the main floor men's washroom and the Gavel, and obtaining paper recycling bins around the building.

Yearbooks from last year have arrived and are available for pick-up for last year LSA members during LSA office hours. As well, CANs were made available in record time thanks to VP Academic Lisa Monteith, and for those of you who have not picked yours up, come by the office with your order form to get them. (Chances are you'll need them to crunch for your exams in December!)

And finally, the moment you all have been waiting for is here: the *Who's Who* is in and ready for pick-up. Look for details on the Bulletin Board to find out where and when LSA members can get their very own student directory. [Disclaimer: The LSA takes no responsibility for random, late night phone calls now that your contact information has been published.]

Who's Who in the LSA

Law Girl: Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone

Hometown: Bay City, Michigan, USA

Sign: Leo

Undergrad Studies: Dance

If you were stranded on an island which CD would you want with you?
Prince's *Purple Rain*

What's the one book you would take with you on a flight around the world?
How you can manipulate the media by David Alexander

The one TV show you wouldn't even miss during final exams?
Rosie O'Donnell (I know she is no longer on, but I have reruns)

The one movie you would pay twice to see at the expensive theatre?
Desperartely Seeking Susan...or Shanghai Surprise (too narcisistic?)

If you could chill anywhere, would you pick the beach or the mountains?
Beach obviously, particularly beaches with no dress code...

Favorite thing to do when NOT studying?
Studying?

If money was no object what would be the first thing you would buy?
Money is no object, baby...

Pub or Martini Bar?
Neither, I am a club kid all the way!

Halloween Party 2004

Photo by Justyna Herman

Photo by Kieran Ryan

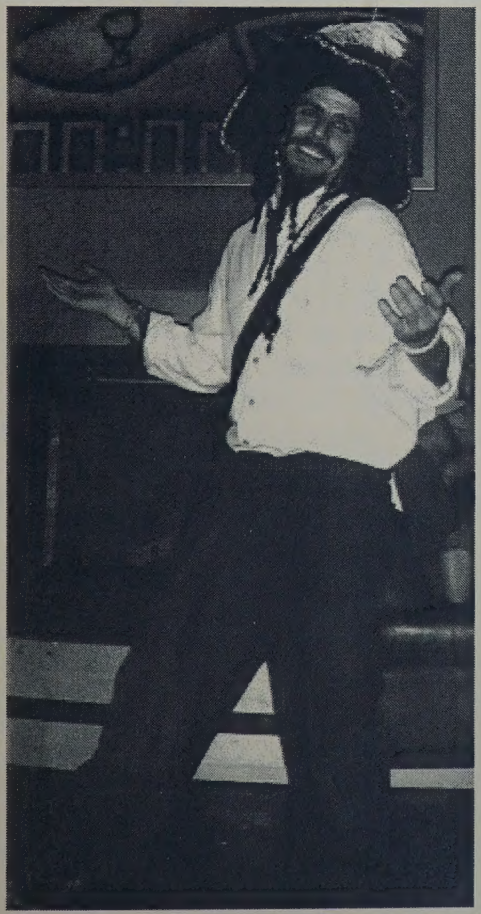
Photo by Stephanie Wong

Photo by Mike Anderson

Photo by Justyna Herman

Photo by Justyna Herman

Photo by Justyna Herman



Law Guy: Captain Jack Sparrow

Hometown: La Isla dela Muerta

Undergrad Studies:
Majored in plundering, minored in pillaging

If you were stranded on an island which CD would you want with you?
What's a CD? Cute Damsel? Mate, that last bash was so grand I couldn't possibly say...

What's your favorite book in the world?
I was booked for moral indecency once in Spain, and then high treason in England - but of course they were both misunderstandings...

Favorite place overseas?
They're all good over the sea, mate; it's when you're ***under*** **it you're in trouble!**

Favorite food and drink?
Rum and the freshest of fruit (for the scurvy don't you know...)

The one movie you would pay twice to see at the expensive theatre?
The sequel... watch for Keith Richards playing the part of me father.

The place you'll most likely travel to when finished school?
The Captain never tells the crew the destination - git back to work ye scabby dog!

If you could chill anywhere, would you pick the beach or the mountains?
The beach with mountains of booty.

Mermaids or barmaids?
Tough call, tough call...

Favorite thing to do when NOT studying?
Love to plunder, pillage, woo, parlez and partay!

General MALFEASANCE

Matt Vernon (2L)

I woke up this past Monday morning, like most of you, and found myself squarely in November. Now, I've done some checking, and it turns out that November comes just before another month, one about which you probably don't want to be reminded. Which one is that? I'll try to lay this out as gently as possible: you know all the months this year that don't have exams in them? Well, we're not talking about any of those.

If you're feeling stressed out, don't worry. You probably aren't the only one, and no one here is going to blame you for it: the months are pretty tricky. But what you ought to be a bit more concerned about, arguably, are exams. Why? Well, it's exams that keep law school from being perfect, and that should be something of a concern. Imagine what life around the school could be without them: we'd be able to study Evidence Law for the pure inherent joy of it, rather than as part of a shallow, hardscrabble competition for grades. I mean, it isn't like we need this 100% cumulative gun to our head to joyfully learn about prior inconsistent statements; we'd be all over that.

At any rate, stressing about the razor sharp guillotine hurtling towards the back of your neck isn't going to do anything other than maybe dull it a little and ultimately make it hurt more. With that in mind, here are a few tried and true tips for working through and surviving all this exam-related stress:

Eat well

A lot of nutritionists would tell you that coffee, sugar, and other stimulants aren't a good idea around exams because while they're a short term burst, they'll eventually just bring you back down to below where you were before. Fair enough. What these nutritionists apparently haven't figured out, though, in all their stressful years at "food college", is that you can just *not stop drinking* coffee. Or sugar. That way, you'll never come down: you'll just get faster and higher until you're a fact-cramming, course-canning machine. You can always come hurtling down in January, when nothing matters again.

Remember the Curve

Everyone in law school gets graded against one another on a very set curve. What that means for you is that while you may be dealing with powerful amounts of stress and work, so is everyone else in your class. Really, doing your personal best is all that matters: you don't have to be perfect. In that spirit, try to strike that ideal balance of bringing your own grades up, while simultaneously lowering everyone else's. An hour of asking your "friends" frustrated questions about *mens rea* as it pertains to Contracts is probably just as effective as two hours spent reading cases.

Practice

There are lots of past exams available online for most of your courses. If you happen to have a professor without a working supply, though, don't bother trying out another section's: not only will they be entirely dissimilar, but they probably won't even be in the same language. Either way, here's a good plan for getting the best out of a practice exam: set yourself up in a realistic exam-type setting. Ideally, the clock will be making a bunch of noise, and make sure you're either too hot, or too cold, at your discretion. Note how much time you have, and make sure you don't go over. Now, start the exam! Look at the questions, and slowly realise that you have absolutely no idea what they're asking. Check which exam you're taking in the vain hope you're in the wrong room. If it's an open book exam, feel free to flip in abject futility through your sea of highlighted notes: laugh ruefully that they aren't going to save you, despite all the work you put into them. Begin blathering: see how many booklets you can fill with legal-sounding terminology before your time in law school comes to an abrupt and humiliating end. And there you go: now you're ready for the real thing! As a bare minimum, you'll have authentic exam experience under your belt come December.

If you're still stressed about exams after employing these tips, then you might want to try something a bit more practical: make confident eye contact with all your exams until they realise you aren't intimidated by them. Then they'll gradually back away. Remember: they're just as scared of you as you are of them, and you are on their territory. If all else fails, try playing dead in the foetal position.

Surviving Exams

Poetry

Five past four, Stuck here with who?
Never mind but why I can't pay attention.
So I wander in my mind,
And let my cheap pen spill its words on the page.
I don't have to think for myself,
Which protects me from dangers that may be found inside.
I rely on the smooth blue ribbon of ink,
To transform itself into letters and doodles.
Hypnotized.
Now noise breaks through and my page shifts,
Back to small words repeating.
How many have I seen crumpled and tossed,
If lucky landing outside the blue boxes lining the corners.
Unaware of the influence possessed inside,
Now unleashed for eternity.
Did you find it and toss it back,
Not taking the time to discover the lines?

by Bearach Anderson

Any comments, suggestions or ideas?

Let us know!

We have a "Comments Box" in the Law Library

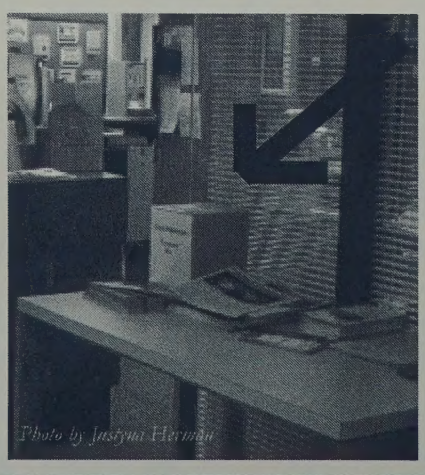


Photo by Justyna Herman

Advice COLUMN

Everything You Wanted to Know About Life but Were Afraid to Ask Until Now

Adina Preda (3L) and Justin Pettigrew (3L)

Question: What advice do you have on balancing the law school work / party load? I've been having trouble making it out to all the events *and* getting my readings done... which should I cut out, if anything?

He Said: I sympathize with your dilemma and thus offer up a few suggestions. The reality of it is that there is no way to get everything done. But it's always that way. Think about other times in your life you had to "cut it short" to get things done: some have probably proven more fatal than others. For instance, you cut the packing of your parachute short to make it to the plane on time for the jump. Or, you cut dinner short with your girlfriend to go out with your buddies. Those were obviously both bad decisions. So, in this case, make right call: cut your readings short to get out to those great parties. If reading related guilt gets the better of you, then just read the beer label.

She Said: Depends on what your long-term career goals are. Working the Edmonton party circuit definitely requires the specialized skills that only three years of law school parties, bar-hopping, and hangovers can hone to perfection. Maybe you're even thinking about the lofty heights of the Toronto or New York social scene; hey, it's good to aim high! Your experiences here will surely prepare you for anything expected of your average North American bar-fly. But seriously, you already know the answer. It's all about balance, and that isn't exactly always easy to find. So your choices seem to be: workaholic or alcoholic. Try alternating every week or so: you'll get the hang of it eventually.

Question: Hey, I'm a first year girl here at the U of A, and I have a question: why won't the upper year guys leave us alone? It's like they've never seen attractive, slightly vulnerable women before.

He Said: Honestly, you have stumped me on this one. The only thing I can suggest is this: suppose one day while fishing, you catch a 3-eyed fish. While that's not all that strange in some fantasy world like in *The Simpsons*, it's a little bit stranger in reality. So you decide to keep the fish and put it in a nice fish bowl at home. All your friends come over and stare at the fish in amazement; they have never seen anything like it. Then gradually, over time, more and more people start catching 3-eyed fish and, suddenly, they become less novel. People are not as amazed with the 3-eyed fish as time wears on and gradually they stare less. You'll see what I mean.

She Said: Is this a rhetorical question? Guys in law school are part of the male species. It would be safe to presume their motivations are the same as those of every other XY specimen, and if they're more persistent – well, they *are* lawyers-in-training. As a 1L, you're attractive for reasons that have nothing to do with your "assets". You're a new, fresh ... um... face, possibly impressed by a couple years of law school experience (and, frankly, that wears off after a few semesters), and less likely to know about their girlfriend in B.C. In any event, what's the problem? If you've made it as far as law school, you should have learned how to deal with guys by now.

Question: What advice do you have for someone who wants to crack into the market? It's been my lifelong goal to be an advice columnist, and I was wondering what it's going to take to make the grade?

He Said: Just go to the next canons meeting and say something along the lines of "I want to write," and you're in! The qualifications for this job are...well, there are no qualifications. Although, come to think of it, that may not be completely true. To be an "advice" columnist you have to have some advice to impart to our trusted and troubled readers and be sensitive to their needs. For instance, in considering *your* situation...your lifelong goal is to be an advice columnist. My advice to you is "don't put all your eggs in the same basket." Because if (and when) you fail you will be incredibly disappointed. Then you'll be writing us and asking how to get over this incredible defeat, to which we will reply, "You tried and failed. Lesson learned...never try". So the moral here: maybe consider a new lifelong goal.

She Said: It takes hard work and dedication to your craft, grasshopper. It's not easy, we just make it look that way. The main thing to do, before you embark on this momentous journey of self-realization, is to ask yourself a few questions. Can you handle the awesome power that an advice guru yields over impressionable minds and fragile egos? Do you have enough opinions to dispense them to the masses? The thing is, most people can't handle the truth, and they don't want to hear it from you. So you have to know how to spin a good line but make it seem profound and sincere. And if you're allergic to nuts, don't worry. You won't even be getting peanuts on this job.

Short Story

Final E-mail

On the bus, I've just begun
reading. Kundera. Page 50. He's
going on about what is light, what
is heavy. The nonchalant philosophy
distracts, from the dusty afternoon.
it's been a year.

A lady, of medium weight, is
sitting beside me. She is doing
something around her nose area.
I focus my eyes down, on the page.

As the bus strains to stop,
I quickly glance over. Okay good –
she is looking into her compact
— a nostalgic pierce —
I burned your handwriting.

A girl about 17 sits across,
dozing. The mutilation slashes on
her arms make me blink. "She has
changed though," I tell myself.

'Block Sender,' CLICK.
The bus lunges forward.

by Clint Martin

Do you want to wish anybody Happy Birthday? Or do you have something to say? Submit it to ***Three Lines Free***. Email your requests to **f1979g@yahoo.com**

2L FILES

Second Year Reflections

Dan Moseley (2L)

Being the middle child of the law school is often tough. You're no longer the cute bright-eyed darling of law school that you once were. Everything that was once new and exciting has now become almost ritualistic. You've been hardened into a veteran of law school. And being a veteran, you've resorted to such time-saving techniques as limiting yourself to meals that take less than five minutes to make and take no heed of the traditional "four essential food groups."

Now with both Christmas and exams approaching, if I could make a suggestion as to two essential items you will need to make it through this semester, it would have to be eggnog and mandarin oranges. Yep, you heard me right – eggnog and mandarin oranges. Eggnog provides you with large quantities of sugar *and* caffeine, as well as helping to build a large layer of fat to protect you from the cold Edmonton weather. It should also be noted that alcohol may be added to eggnog to improve your intelligence. Mandarin oranges, on the other hand, can be your excuse for not eating well and your only saving grace from the impending onset of scurvy. Those tiny little fruits are like *gold* this time of year! Not only do they provide nutritional value, but they also require you to buy them by the box, which provides you with some moderate exercise. However, I should warn you that mandarin oranges might not be the fruit for you if it takes you longer than 30 minutes to peel off the skin.

There a couple of other points which become apparent when you reach your second year of law school. For instance, you come to the realization that passing law school is no longer the only relevant long-term goal. You also have to get a job. This is where all those career lectures you went to just for the pizza last year come in handy. Speaking of pizza, is it just me or are there less pizza lunches this year? I fondly remember being able to make free pizza my lunch at least once a week last year. I proudly attended almost every pizza lunch, no matter what the topic was. Unfortunately, this year that's all changed. I've therefore come to the conclusion that the lack of pizza this year must be a conspiracy of some sort.

And as if the lack of pizza isn't enough to worry about, this year we don't have seven months to prepare for finals. For those of you who are shocked to hear this, I should let you know that courses in second year are only a semester long, so if you've only signed up for five this year, you're in trouble.

But seriously, there are some things that as second years we should take a moment to reflect upon. First and foremost, we are approaching the halfway mark of our law school careers. This means you have already drank half of all the beer you will drink in law school, you have already been to half the FABS you will go to as a law student, and you have already done half the reading you will do in law school. Although, if the comments of third years are to be believed, it sounds like we may be able drink even *more* beer in the second half of law school if we really work at it. Secondly, we are now in the enviable position of being the ones giving advice to first years, instead of blindly following it. First years, this is for you – taking Admin, Evidence, Corporations, Tax, and Conflicts in one semester is totally do-able. Heh heh!

Anyways, as a final point, I think a good friend of mine said it best when he said, "Whooa, we're halfway there!" Keep up the good work!

HOROSCOPE

Aries: It's good to be you this week. Everyone wants a piece of you and it's hard not to strut your stuff when you know you're hot. But remember that the "flavour of the week" often ends up in the "bargain bin" before it had a chance to break the Bentley out of the driveway. So try to keep a low profile before you get a karmic kick in the backside.

Taurus: Sometimes when professors ask questions they're rhetorical. That means you don't answer them out loud. See, when we all go down to the administration building with that envelope full of thousands of dollars of tuition money, we aren't handing that over in the hopes that we'll be privileged enough to hear *your* thoughts on the policies driving tort law.

Gemini: Ah, November. It's a perfect month for winter walks, snowball fights with kids in the neighborhood, and cozy nights under a blanket with someone special. Or, in your case, for writing a memorandum until you're so tired as to be *not criminally responsible* when you savagely bludgeon your fictitious client half to death.

Cancer: Someone out there is having more fun than you. It might even be someone you know. Remember, second place is the first loser: get out there and do whatever you have to in order to truly *get down*. The planets recommend drinking, but that's nothing new: we suspect they have a problem. The first step is admitting it, planets. Then we can get you some help.

Leo: It's been that kind of day: you sleep through the alarm, run out of coffee, almost get run over on the way to school, and remember about your in-class presentation about two weeks too late. Your hair is putting Donald Trump to shame. The universe is having one huge cosmic joke at your expense. It's time to chuck it all in and head to the nearest alcoholic beverage outlet. Just watch out for falling anvils.

Virgo: You were going to get a limerick, but they're hard to write on the spot. If you can think of any good words to rhyme with "tequila", feel free to write yourself a little something. On another note, your creative energies are pretty tapped out this month: look around you for positive influences that might work to recharge you: get to know the *inner* you. For the guys, watch football. Go Pats!

Libra: You know, it's time you started taking Law School seriously again. Just because you stay in the Library until 10:00 every night doesn't mean anything if you sleep on top of your books for 4 hours. Yeah, I've seen you. At least stop drooling. Also, no one is impressed in class by the fact that you have all your cases highlighted; it's pretty obvious you're just highlighting random passages to prove you've been over the page.

Scorpio: Happy birthday, dear Scorpio! As a present, we're predicting that you'll be getting luck, fortune and lots of mind-blowing … presents. But we're just being nice; don't expect the universe or anyone else to be similarly inclined. Let's hope they'll buy you a drink at least.

Sagittarius: Shouldn't we call it the "balance of probability" rather than the "balance of probabilities"? It sounds as though each side is trying to pile up *more* probabilities than the other. What if both sides had the same number of probabilities, but one had an extra reasonable doubt? Does that matter? How

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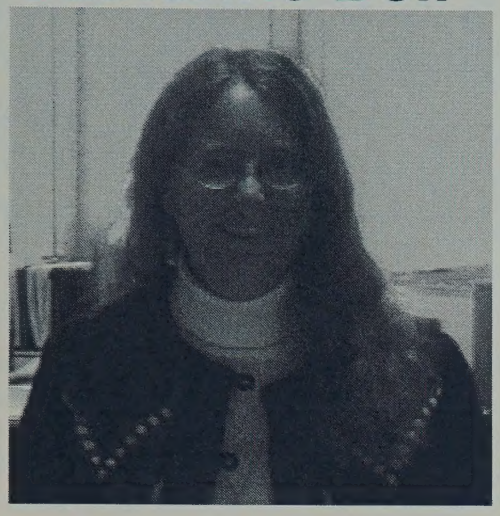
Proust INTERVIEW

with Professor Catherine Bell



Justyna Herman (2L)

This month, we ask the Proust Questions to Professor Catherine Bell. Professor Bell teaches Aboriginal Peoples and the Lawl, Property Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
To be honest I am not sure I have achieved it yet. I guess you will have to check back with me in another 30 or so years!

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
Good wine, fine chocolate, a good novel, and a Jacuzzi tub (or a wood burning fireplace will also do).

What is your most treasured possession?
My grandfather's wedding band. I wear it on a chain close to my heart and have since the day he died.

What is the trait you most deplore in others?
There are two actually. Arrogance and intolerance of difference.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
This is a tough one. I think independence is sometimes overrated. It is important to be independent but I think if we place too much emphasis on independence we risk losing sight of the benefits and responsibilities of being part of a larger community.

What is your greatest extravagance?
I am not that extravagant, but to spoil myself I like to buy handcrafted jewellery and original art.

What is your favorite journey?
I have been fortunate to travel to a lot of places in this world. Perhaps one of the most memorable journeys was to Peru and Bolivia. On that journey I spent a week in the Amazon jungle, stood alone with a friend watching the sun rise over Machu Picchu, took a train across the Andean plains enjoying local music and crafts along the way, and sailed across lake Titicaca to Bolivia. If you ever go to the Amazon take earplugs! It sure is loud at night in the jungle with all the critters croaking and buzzing about.

What is the quality you most like in a man?
Compassion.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?
Compassion.

If you were to come back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?
A mosquito.

What is your favorite way of spending time?
I really enjoy hanging out with my husband doing just about anything. He makes me laugh a lot. I also enjoy walking or cycling in the river valley followed by a good conversation over a good cup of coffee with a good friend.

Which living person do you most admire?
My mother.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?
That's another tough one. Catherine the Great? (Just kidding).

Who are your favorite fictional heroes?
Frodo is right up there. I like the complex reluctant type.

Who are your favorite writers?
Well there is a list. I like the humor of Tony Hillerman and Margaret Atwood. I love Elizabeth George and Ian Rankin mysteries and also Dean Koontz thrillers. There are many others.

Who are your favorite musicians?
Mozart is definitely the top of my list but I actually have quite diverse tastes. I quite love folk music and am a big fan of Valdy, Buffy St. Marie, and Joni Mitchell. I also really enjoy singing along to crooners like Frank Sinatra and Natalie Cole (I know that is somewhat pathetic). For Jazz it would be Etta James. For guitar, Otmar Lieber and Leo Kotke. For Rock and Roll you can't beat the Stones and I quite like the Cranberries. The list goes on and on but I must admit it doesn't include punk or heavy metal.

Who are your favorite filmmakers?
I like Ron Howard films.

Who are your favorite actresses?
Susan Sarandon and Sigourney Weaver.

What was the last book you read?
Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
This term - "hopefully we will get to that!"

What is your biggest everyday pet peeve?
People talking on cell phones when they are driving. Actually it bugs me even more when people talk on cell phones at dinner tables in restaurants. The worst part is I catch myself doing it sometimes.

What is your motto?
You can only do your best. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

What talent would you most like to have?
Lots of energy with little sleep.

Get to Know Your Professors

Horoscope

...Continued from page 12

many doubts does it take to make a probability? Can you trade them with the crown over the lunch break? "Hey, I have two reasonable doubts as to consent; you can have them for an established *Charter* violation."

Capricorn: If you open a textbook towards the back and write a cheerful message for yourself, by the time you get to it you'll have forgotten it entirely; it's like banking a feeling! If you find the message around exams, it will remind you that once, back through the mists of time, you weren't just a haggard shell of a person subsisting entirely on coffee, Hickory Sticks, and your palpable hatred of waking life itself. Smile!

Aquarius: You've been feeling run down lately. The bad news is that you've got a mean travel bug and it ain't going anywhere. But don't worry, there's a great 14-day cure that should do the trick. Just make sure you pack your shades and a beach towel.

Pisces: Ever had the 'Happy Plate Special' from HoHo's in HUB mall? It's pasty, it's not good for you, and it's pretty much guaranteed that you don't want to know what it is, exactly, that goes into the 'Chicken Balls'. In fact, it's a mystery that not only can the place stay in business, but that it's *always busy*. But that's just part of life's magic: in the HUB mall of life, there's always going to be a happy plate special. Heaven forbid you have to eat at "The Jacket Potato Man".

Bowman's BANTER SPORTS

Cam Bowman (2L)

Rugby – Year in Review

VICTORY!!!

For the first time since its inception in 1997, the Golden Bearristers are the champions of the annual student vs. alumni rugby game. On October 16 the students were victorious 19-0 on the frozen tundra of the Nor'wester rugby field, after the scoring efforts of Keith Inman, Brett Plaizer, and Mike Irvin. The student MVP's were Mike Irvin, for his scoring effort and for looking so damn good in that headpiece, and Mark Hamilton, for being an all around *beast* on the field. It was definitely rugby weather, with the temperature hovering between 0 and -5 and the snow falling consistently through the whole day. The students were well represented by the best efforts of about 40 of your classmates, while the alumni had about 25 players.

For some players, this victory was a long time coming, as they have been trying for three years to beat the alumni. It was quite a relief to third year players; this means they can graduate from law school without having 3 consecutive years of losing as their legacy. For others who are playing on the team for the first time, winning is all they have ever known, and hopefully we can make a habit of it (until *I* play on the alumni team, of course).

It was a sweet victory, especially considering the team practised twice a week for the past 6 weeks with an eye to winning this game. The ball got rolling in early September with an initial kick around that was held in less than ideal weather, a harbinger of things to come. Along with the snow at the game, the team also went through a practice that was held in driving hail. You didn't hear anyone complain, though. The team also had no major injuries, although there were numerous bumps and bruises. One important highlight was that everyone managed to keep his nose intact throughout the season.

Without question, one of the main reasons that this team was successful was the high quality of the coaching from the volunteer coaches and the veteran players. For the many newcomers, the instruction proved to be invaluable, especially when it came to figuring out the correct method of tackling and being tackled. As a note to those who plan on coming out next year – tackling by headlock is NOT one of the aforementioned correct methods. One of the most confusing aspects of the game is definitely the terminology: non-rugby people are usually not familiar with a 'ruck', a 'maul', a 'hooker' (not that kind), or a 'badger' (ok, I made that one up). The veterans and the coaches were always available to clear up any confusion, or, alternatively, make fun of the rookies for making a rookie mistake.

Despite what the score may seem to indicate, there was another team on the field that day, and the Olden Barristers deserve to have a word or two written about them, considering that they *do* have a 7-1 record. Also, sometimes alumni say some interesting things, if you pay attention. We were lucky enough to get an appearance from Gord Sterchi, who was actually a founder of the club way back in 1995. The team had a very different composition back then, and had a hard time getting enough players to field a squad. There were no coaches, so Gord, being one of the few people with previous playing experience, had to do most of the coaching. Sean Taylor, Steve Gibson and Chris Wiebe were other members of the first tem in attendance. Sean in particular was quoted as threatening that the students can have this year, but *next* year the alumni were going to win, *without question*. So the gauntlet has already been thrown down for next year. Maybe we should continue our practices throughout the summer this year? Of course, this threat *did* come from someone who now lives in Vancouver; so we should take his bravado with a grain of salt.

In doing some research for this article, I seem to have solved a bit of a mystery. Most players did not know about the history of the coveted golden boot trophy we were all killing ourselves for. Hugh Willis, the former LSA president, and current member of the Olden Barristers, (and who is, incidentally, now 0 for 4 as a Bearrister) directed me to David Benjestorf, and it was from David that I got to the bottom of the story. It seems that at one point in time there was a house, known as the Golden Bearristers clubhouse, where many of the players would meet and, well, drink beer. Anyway, at one point some of the players got a hold of one of the cleats of Catherine Todd, an alumni who was one of the first women to play rugby at our law school. The players decided that a cleat would be an appropriate trophy for a rugby tournament, and once they found an appropriate block of wood it was just a matter of inserting a couple of screws through the shoe into the wood. Gold spray paint was added, and a trophy was born. So next year, when you're trying to drag three other people down the field with you, think of Catherine and her sacrifice of an entire cleat for the game: you had better be able to get that ball across the goal line at the very least.

Although the team will be losing some quality players, we are in capable hands with Mark Hamilton ready to step into the cleats left behind by this year's captain, Mark Hawkins. To boot, the crop of first year players was very productive, and they are only going to get better now that they have one year's experience under

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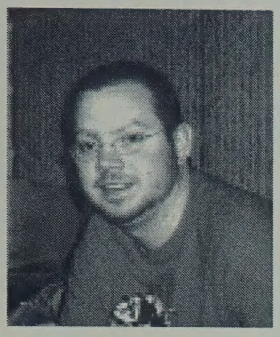
Sports COMMENTARY



Darin McKinley (1L)
"I just need some time"

An Open Letter to all my Professors:

There is something that I really need to tell you. I don't really know where to start, but I felt that in the interest of full disclosure, you should know this – well, full disclosure and my desperate need that you don't call on me for the next few weeks. Here it goes. You know all those nice, expensive books that you asked us to buy for class at the start of the year? Well, for the past month they have been tucked neatly away in the corner of my living room collecting dust. I often hear them calling out to me, and I know that they really want to be read, but I just haven't been able to bring myself to do it. Actually, this isn't entirely true. They haven't spent the whole month in that corner. One day I was looking for something in the back of my cupboard and, not being the tallest guy in the world, I moved them into my kitchen. Surprisingly enough, when I piled them one on top of another, they made a pretty effective stool. But that's not the point. The point is that even with the best of intentions – what did they say about the road of life being littered with good intentions? – I am a good month behind in my readings.

I know, I know. What kind of lawyer am I going to make having let things slide to such a degree in my first two months of law school? In my defence, I don't really think that it's entirely my fault. I got sucked into this vortex that I just couldn't – or didn't have the will power to – pull myself out of. You see, it all started back on October 5th. Right now I remember it fondly, but I am sure that come midterms it will quickly turn into a full-on nightmare. Anyway, I got home on the 5th and turned on the T.V. as I always do in my attempt to unwind before hitting the books. Unfortunately for me, that one little flick of the on button could prove to have been my undoing. You see, in my fervent attempt to find out what was on every channel of my television within the span of three minutes, I had stumbled upon Day 1 of the Major League Baseball playoffs. Now I suppose that "stumbled" really isn't the best word for it, seeing how I *knew* that they were right around the corner. But even knowing that, I figured that having *just* started law school, it would be better to focus most of my attention on my studies, and just follow the playoffs as I had generally done in the past: through the highlight reels and the score sheets. Again, in my defence, you can see that I did have good intentions here… just not very good follow through.

So on the T.V. that fateful afternoon was a nice little game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals, who just happened to have on their team Maple Ridge's own Larry Walker, a guy who hadn't been in the playoffs since 1995. It looked like a decent enough game of which to catch a few minutes, even if the Cards were up big by the time I had gotten home. Well, as I continued watching, those few minutes quickly turned into more than eight hours as the third game of the day's triple-header – a *David v. Goliath* match-up between the Minnesota Twins and the New York Yankees – came to a close late that night. It being around 10:30 p.m. by that time, and me having been tired and with a headache from all the baseball I had just watched, I packed my school bag and headed off to bed having done no reading at all.

I felt guilty that next day as I sat there in class having no idea what was going on, making a mad effort to take notes as quickly as possible in an attempt to offset my poor performance from the night before. That guilt, however, quickly turned into anticipation as I looked ahead to that afternoon's slate of games – another triple-header! To say the least, after those first two days, I was hooked and there was no going back. As one day turned into the next, the excitement just kept building… right on through to the 27th, when the Boston Red Sox exorcised the most talked about demon in the history of sport and won their first World Series in 86 years.

Now before you all go and tell me how much more important it is for me to be spending my time reading cases and learning rules, take a minute to think about what I witnessed. Those aforementioned Red Sox, in exorcising the curse of the Bambino, made history by being the first baseball team to come back from a 3-0 series deficit to win. And to do it against the Yankees, a team that had ended their championship hopes on so many occasions. That made it all the sweeter. As well, the Sox were the first baseball team to win eight straight postseason games, a remarkable feat by any standards. There was Curt Schilling, coming through again in the clutch, this time on only one good ankle. And 42 year old Roger Clemens of the Houston Astros, whose pitching this postseason was as good, if not better, than it was eighteen years ago when he was pitching for the Red Sox in their last trip to the World Series. Did you know that Larry Walker was twice within one hit of the cycle this postseason? Now I realize that he didn't get that last hit in either of those games, but no one else in the history of the game has hit for the cycle in the postseason either, so I'd say it was a pretty solid effort. Hey, any chance you might put that on the midterm? No? Oh well, can't blame a guy for trying.

I guess in the end, the question you have to ask is: do I have any regrets? As of right now I'd have to say no. It's been an amazing journey. I've seen the Boston Red Sox make history… and not for something that they screwed up. It's been a great month of baseball. But having said all that, could you give me a few weeks to catch up on my readings before you go and ask me something?

The World I Know

Rugby...

...Continued from page 14

their belts. Despite what some, or all, of the third years might tell you, the *Golden* Bearristers look like they will be able to thrash the Olden Bearristers for some years to come.

The Panda Bearristers also played on Saturday, and they also won their bout against their older counterparts! Okay, so it was really an intersquad game (with only a couple alumni making an appearance), but still, they looked downright professional in their eye-catching matching team shirts. The word on the street is that the girls are going to be setting up their own alumni game next year, so keep your heads up boys: you're not the only game in town anymore.

Truly, this was a year to remember for the rugby team, and whenever anyone looks at the trophy and sees 19-0 for the good guys on the plaque, they will be reminded of snow, long practises, beer, and, most importantly, victory.

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